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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) A personal video recorder comprising:
an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said audiovisual signal;
a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;
a data storage unit; and
a processor that receives input from a user input device;
wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said processor automatically records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and
a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command;
wherein said user input device receives parameters from a user that specify said first and second predetermined amounts, said processor then receives said parameters and automatically records said segment based on said parameters.

24. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 23, wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit.

25. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 24, wherein said processor generates an index of segments of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit using said identifying label of each said segment.

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26. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 23, wherein said data storage unit is a hard drive.

27. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 23, wherein said user input device comprises a remote control unit and said recorder comprises a receiver for receiving input from said remote control unit.

28. (previously presented) A personal video recorder comprising:
an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said audiovisual signal;
a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;
a data storage unit; and
a processor that receives input from a user input device;
wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said processor automatically records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and
a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command, wherein said second predetermined amount is determined by a length of time during which a user holds down a button on said user input device for issuing said user command.

29. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 23, further comprising a disk drive for receiving removable data storage disks, wherein said processor transfers recorded segments from said data storage unit to said disk drive under control of said user input device.

30-35. (cancelled)

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36. (currently amended) A personal video recorder comprising:
an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said
audiovisual signal;
a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said
audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;
a data storage unit; and
a processor that receives input from a user input device;
wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said
processor records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment
of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained
in said buffer; and
a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal
output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and
wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said
audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit such that segments taken from a single
audiovisual program can be distinguished.

~~The recorder of claim 30,~~ wherein said data storage unit is a hard drive.

37. (currently amended) A personal video recorder comprising:
an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said
audiovisual signal;
a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said
audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;
a data storage unit; and
a processor that receives input from a user input device;
wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said
processor records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment
of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained
in said buffer; and

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a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit such that segments taken from a single audiovisual program can be distinguished.

~~The recorder of claim 30,~~ wherein said user input device comprises a remote control unit and said recorder comprises a receiver for receiving input from said remote control unit.

38. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 37, wherein said user input device comprises a plurality of remote control units, each of which can issue said user command to said recorder.

39. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 38, wherein said processor records an indication with each segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit as to which remote control unit ordered recording of that segment.

40. (currently amended) A personal video recorder comprising:
an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said audiovisual signal;
a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;
a data storage unit; and
a processor that receives input from a user input device;
wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said processor records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and
a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and

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wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit such that segments taken from a single audiovisual program can be distinguished;

~~The recorder of claim 30,~~ wherein said first and second predetermined amounts are set by user input through said user input device.

41. (currently amended) A personal video recorder comprising:
an input for receiving an audiovisual signal and an output for outputting said audiovisual signal;
a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal, said buffer retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;
a data storage unit; and
a processor that receives input from a user input device;
wherein, upon receipt of a user command input through said user input device, said processor records a segment of said audiovisual signal in said data storage unit, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and
a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and
wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit such that segments taken from a single audiovisual program can be distinguished.

~~The recorder of claim 30,~~ further comprising a disk drive for receiving removable data storage disks, wherein said processor transfers recorded segments from said data storage unit to said disk drive under control of said user input device.

42-50. (cancelled)

51. (previously presented) A method of operating a personal video recorder comprising:

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buffering said audiovisual signal by retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal in a buffer after that portion has been output by said recorder;
receiving a user command input through a user input device; and,
in response to said user command, automatically recording a segment of said audiovisual signal in a data storage unit in accordance with parameters input by a user prior to receipt of said user command, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and
a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and
receiving user input through said user input device that includes said parameters that specify said first and second predetermined amounts.

52-54. (canceled)

55. (previously presented) A personal video recorder that processes an audiovisual signal comprising:

a buffer for buffering said audiovisual signal by retaining a portion of said audiovisual signal after that portion has been output by said recorder;
means for receiving a user command; and,
in response to said user command, means for automatically recording a segment of said audiovisual signal in a data storage unit in accordance with parameters input by a user prior to receipt of said user command, said segment of said audiovisual signal comprising:
a first predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal retained in said buffer; and
a second predetermined amount of said portion of said audiovisual signal output by said recorder after receipt of said user command; and
means for receiving user input through said user input device to control a length of said first and second predetermined amounts.

56-59. (cancelled).

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60. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 28, wherein said processor associates an identifying label with each said segment of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit.

61. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 60, wherein said processor generates an index of segments of said audiovisual signal recorded in said data storage unit using said identifying label of each said segment.

62. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 28, wherein said data storage unit is a hard drive.

63. (previously presented) The recorder of claim 28, wherein said user input device comprises a remote control unit and said recorder comprises a receiver for receiving input from said remote control unit.